

REMINISCENCES OF
OLDER PENSACOLA

Old Resident Tells of Beginning of
Park Improvement in City and Re-
cent Past.

"The only spot in Pensacola when I first came to the city," says J. N. Andrews, adding reminiscences, was at the southeast corner of Government and Tarragona streets, and was only for freight passenger cars were placed on the track between Government and Intendencia streets and passengers got on or off there.

The largest dry goods business was done at the northeast corner of Tarragona street by F. G. & L. A. Pon. The business houses were nearly all one story. I first remember the frame building taking in from Government street where the National bank stands up to Child's restaurant, one story, and kept by T. T. Wright, called the Merchant Prince. P. Stone kept a clothing store, and I. Gugenheim a shoe store called the Red Star Shoe Palace. There were two bakeries, J. F. Pfeiffer, whose bakery is still in operation, and Henry White, who lived on Intendencia street and had his bakery and store fronting on Government street. He also made crackers and hardtack, a kind of special cracker for vessel trade. Before the typo made me say that Slabtown was at the foot of 10th avenue; instead, I said that E. Garden street was Slabtown, negro squatters living on each side in little cabins. That was between Palafox and Alcaniz streets.

L. Bear kept a small store where the M. & O. store is now. There were two negroes here then that voted the democratic ticket, George Montgomery and an old crippled shoemaker. They had a tough time. George Montgomery was a very stout man weighing about 300 pounds. He could not stoop over and pick up a very heavy weight from the ground, but he could go to where sacks of oats were piled up, take one under each arm and walk off with them. In those days they often had seven bushels to the sack. At the corner of Garden and Palafox streets, where you may see \$100,000 worth of cars, then you might stand for half an hour and not see a vehicle of any kind. At that time the city and county paid their debts with scrip which was worth 15 or 20 cents on the dollar. George E. Wentworth and Louis Boley were the only ones who would handle it. They made money with it.

"I noticed when Mr. Horlick had found an old cannon, I think it is one of four owned by the city. There used to be a tall flagpole at the center of the plaza and there was an old cannon at each corner with the muzzle in the ground, a guy wire rope leading from the pole to each cannon. That calls to mind the appearance of the plaza when C. Moreno Jones was elected mayor in 1901. The bed of the plaza was about a foot below the walks, the five blocks of paving from Garden street to Main were swept, and the rags, paper and dirt were dumped into the square. When the wind blew there were thousands of rag and paper flags fluttering in the breeze. Mayor Jones had the street foreman to instruct the teamsters when they were working out on either hill to bring in loads of sand at noon and night and so filled it up without any extra cost—and that was the beginning of park improvement in the city.

SOLDIERS ATTACKED
WHILE IN BATHING

Crocodiles Frighten Buck Privates
and Even the Officers.

VERSAILLES, Aug. 6.—The beautiful marble swimming pool created by Louis XIV. between the Trianon palace and the Neptune basin, so that the pages of the king might enjoy a dip on hot days, is now used by private soldiers stationed in the barracks near by.

During one recent torrid spell about 50 buck privates were recuperating in the pool from two hours' drill in the morning before the noonday meal. Suddenly, with a terrified shriek, a soldier sprang out of the baths.

"Crocodiles, lieutenant, there are crocodiles in the pool."

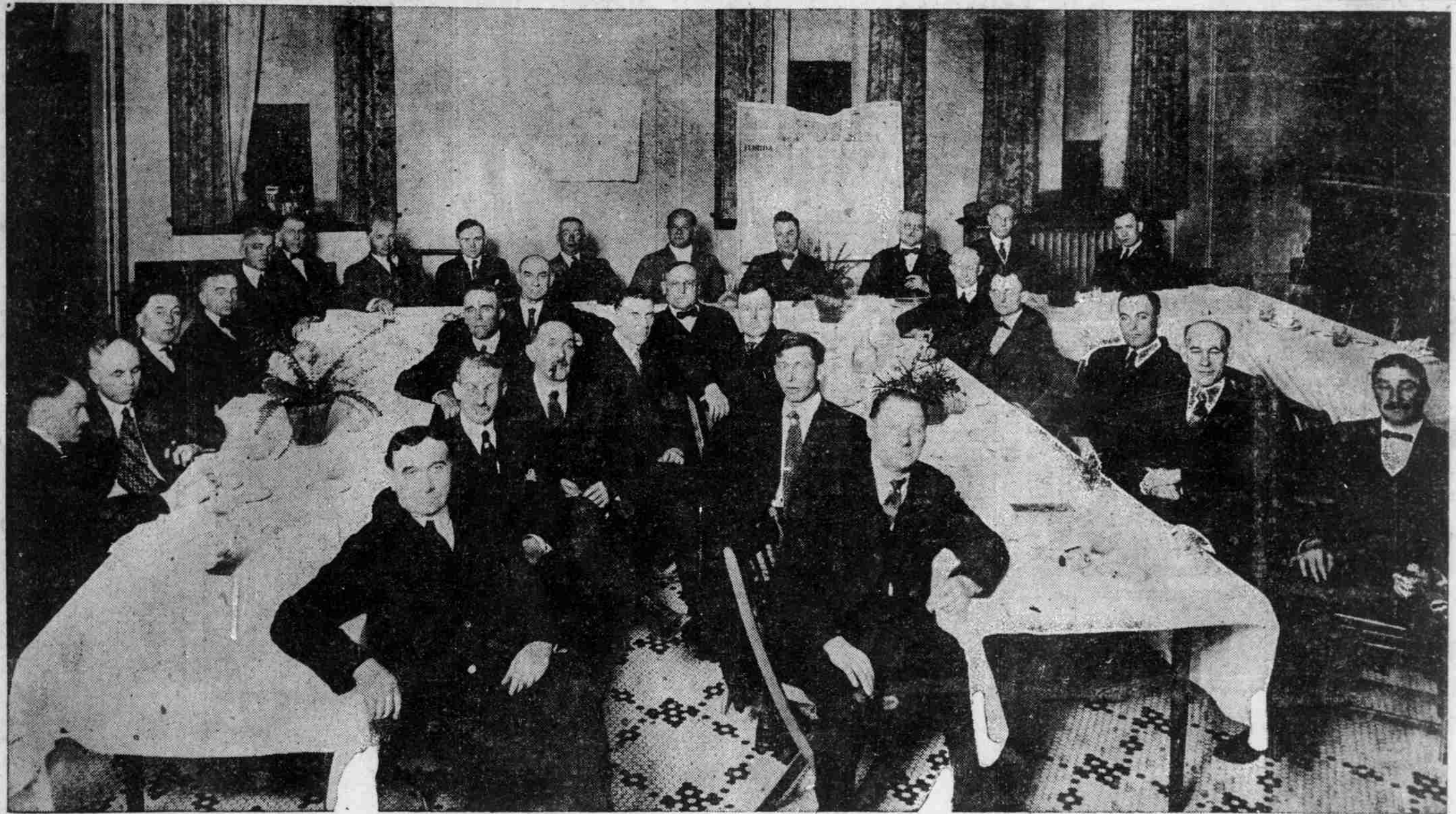
Heut. a blanket around this man and take him to the guardhouse. He is crazy with the heat," said the lieutenant.

Then with a concerted rush which equalled anything ever shown against the Germans, the other 49 bathers leaped out, "Crocodiles, crocodiles!" they shrieked.

EXPRESS THANKS FOR
OLIVE CHURCH FUND

The citizens of Olive have expressed their thanks to the various churches and individuals contributing toward the fund for the building of the new Olive Baptist church and announce that the funds have reached such a proportion as to insure the erection of the building.

BANQUET IN HONOR OF R. E. L. M'CASKILL OF DE FUNIAK SPRINGS



Given by the Officers and Stockholders of the Newly Organized Alabama-Florida Farms Company at the Hotel Kearns, Lansing, Michigan.

R. E. L. McCaskill, of DeFunak Springs, has been in the city for a few days, upon his return from New York, Lansing, Michigan, Chicago, Indianapolis, and other points. His visit to the city of Lansing was for the purpose of arranging some business matters in connection with his recent sale of 30,000 acres of land in the northwestern part of Escambia county, and the east-central part of Baldwin county, to a corporation recently organized and known as the Alabama-Florida Farms company. This name is already familiar to Pensacola business men, as the company has an office in the city, and are preparing to start development on a broad scale in the upper part of the county.

No more far-reaching business project has ever been launched than the one started by Mr. McCaskill and now under the direction and control of the Alabama-Florida Farms company. This concern is composed of a number of leading business men of Lansing, Michigan, who made a thorough investigation of the lands in this county, and were convinced that they could safely and properly be recommended and sold to substantial northern farmers. It is the purpose of this company to transform the cut-over lands which they are offering into semi-improved farms, by fencing each tract sold, removing the stumps and timber from a portion of the land, build a house, stable,

etc., and then in addition to these improvements the company will place on the farm entirely at its own expense, a quantity of cattle and hogs, dividing the increase at a later date, between the land owner and the company, but giving the land-owner considerably the better end of the arrangement. This is done to show the company's absolute confidence in its land from a livestock and general farming standpoint, while at the same time, it indicates a spirit of co-operation on the part of the company which should mean a practical insurance against failure.

This company is also providing marketing facilities for all crops which may be

produced on the land, from a bucket of figs to a drove of Duroc hogs. It is the purpose to build canning and preserving plants, establish a creamery and provide such other means as may be required to properly absorb and market all products from the land.

The affairs of this company at the northern end of the line will be in charge of Mr. G. C. Hale, an experienced business man and an enthusiast as to the possibilities of Florida for the progressive farmer. Mr. Hale is familiar with all parts of the state of Florida, and is very emphatic in his statement that Escambia county is ahead of any other section which he has yet seen.

The local office will be in charge of John F. Gaylor, already well known to a number of Escambia business men. The development work will be in charge of Major Paul Crank, and the plans which are being made for active operations will mean large numbers of northern people coming into this county and purchasing the lands of this company from month to month, and becoming substantial citizens and tax payers, which is what the county and city welcomes and very much needs.

The office of the new company will be on Garden-st., in the Blount building, formerly occupied by the Pensacola Electric company. This ground floor space and

will be remodeled and made into one of the finest offices in the city.

This project would seem to justify a most hearty co-operation on the part of Pensacola business men for there is no forward-looking and far-seeing man who does not realize that the future welfare and growth of the city is largely dependent upon the development of the county and the activities of business concerns such as the Alabama-Florida Farms company.

Mr. McCaskill is deserving of a most hearty vote of thanks for having been the means of bringing about this activity which should mean so much for the city and county.

TELEPHONE OPERATORS RECEIVE ALL
KINDS OF KICKS AND COMPLAINTS

As Matter of Fact Are Usually as Efficient as Mechanical Difficulties Will Permit Them to Be—The Story of the "Light"

Why is it one occasionally has much trouble getting a telephone number? One woman in Pensacola has discovered the reason of the difficulty. Trying to call a number she heard central over the wire say, "Give me a light." Immediately the subscriber visioned the telephone operator asking for a light for her cigarette and straightway called for the chief operator reported the girl. The chief operator answered in a soothing and placating manner—for that's why she is chief operator—and the woman that time got her number satisfactorily.

The chief operator didn't acknowledge to the subscriber that the girl had asked for a light from her fellow operator who was assisting her in working the board and that by asking for a light the operator meant placing a plug to give a desired connection, for the woman wouldn't have understood. She had never been nearer the telephone exchange than the front office and she had already formed a picture in her mind of a lazy operator puffing smoke from a cigarette while she should have been attending to her business. And the chief operator knew that time in explanation would only be wasted.

If this particular subscriber had happened to have had a clearer vision when she sat down before her phone in a cool, quiet room and picked up her receiver to call a number, she would have seen a long, narrow room, one side covered with switch boards, before which sat girls on high stools, each with a headset on and a long horn-shaped mouthpiece fastened to her chest. The hubbub of noises in the room would have been punctuated by the familiar "Number, please?" almost as fast as the operators could speak, the arms and hands in continual motion changing plugs on the switch board.

Right behind the operators' near the center of the room at her desk, the chief operator can listen in at any time on any of the operators' wires and hear both the subscriber and operator talking. Not much chance for one to steal a puff at a cigarette or nibble a chocolate drop. The operator hasn't much time to edge in a chance

remark to her fellow worker right at her side.

It seems to those on the outside looking in or calling in that the telephone operator is the laziest, most inefficient person on earth and that nowhere else in the business world could such inattentiveness get by as in the telephone exchange. And the operator wonders what the public thinks she is anyway and knows that it seems that she is expected to be the most obliging walking encyclopedia and perfect piece of mechanism ever devised for efficiency.

Formerly the housewife wanting to know the time would go to telephone and sweetly ask central rather than go to another part of the house. When the operator would give it to her, she would decide that it must be either earlier—or later—than that and to be sure would call and ask the Western Union. Often when there might be a difference of one or two minutes in the time given she would become indignant at the operator having been so negligent in her work and giving her the wrong time and call for the chief operator and report the girl—making no allowance for any difference in time pieces. Sometimes there was a Western Union clock in the telephone exchange and sometimes some other kind. While every enquirer for the time was not so particular, hundreds were and it was a happy day for the telephone operators when a ruling was made that time could not be given over the wire as it interfered with the regular service too much. Done as a matter of convenience to subscribers they made it a nuisance and a big clog in the wheels of efficiency of the telephone system.

Impatient subscribers will report the operator guilty of all forms of misconduct from sleeping on the job to drunkenness. She is accused of reading story books instead of operating her board as she should. She is reprimanded for talking to her "fellow" over the line and of a hundred and one conjectures.

Again some subscriber's curiosity gets the better of her or him and in cajoling, friendly tones the operator

is asked who was talking over such and such a line and what were they talking about. Others would like to hold a friendly little conversation with the operator and sporty young men about town and older ones like to "kid" the "little girls" along. Some people ask the operator's advice on everything from what doctor to call for a sick child or what to do for it, to who is the best dressmaker in the city.

Subscribers will rave at the operator for giving them the wrong number when they speak at the side or away from the mouth-piece instead of directly into it—or yell in loud tones or jumble their sounds. A subscriber will repeatedly call for "three-eights" and get all peevish up at the operator when she gives him three-eight, when it is eight-eight-eight that he wants. A subscriber will call for three-ones-three and nearly have a fit when the operator gives them three-one-three instead of one-one-one-three.

The operator, no matter how harassed she may be, must never answer rudely or impatiently. Perhaps it is no noblesse oblige but no matter what the person at the other end of the line says, the operator must always be polite and courteous. Though she finds impatience to be a great human characteristic she must never indulge in it herself.

While the telephone operator is often "ragged" for her inefficiency she is probably the most efficient human unit in the world of business. And to increase her efficiency and keep up her nerves when she is off duty a charming rest room with private rockers is situated near the exchange where the girls when they are off duty, are served with coffee, tea or chocolate, which is furnished them free of cost. The girls often bring a lunch with them. There is every convenience for reading or writing and a Victrola which is often used to furnish music for a jolly group of girls to dance by.

The telephone girl forgets her troubles and the public for she doesn't know it and it doesn't know her and she is as jolly and friendly and as sympathetic and kind and just as attractive and humanly lovable when they are acquainted with her as is your next best friend. And she will help you out whenever she can. She is not the underpaid, undernourished, girl, nor the lazy, indolent "sport" that many think her. She is better paid than the average office girl and when she is sick gets paid for all time lost after she has been with her company

SPAIN'S ATTITUDE
CAUSING ANXIETY

Threats of Tariff Pressure and Trade Boycotts Worrying "Dry" Countries.

COPENHAGEN, Aug. 6.—Spain's anti-prohibition attitude is causing economic anxiety in more than one "dry" or partly dry country. Threats of tariff pressure, trade boycotts and other steps in behalf of the manufacture and sale of Spanish wines are having their effect, notably in Iceland and Finland. Norway alone seems impervious to foreign "wet" attacks.

The Icelanders are worried, according to the Politiken, by the decision of Spain to increase customs duties on Icelandic fish unless the prohibition law is altered to allow the importation and consumption of Spanish wines below 21 per cent of alcohol.

Spain's decision spells ruin to the Icelandic fish export, says the Politiken's Iceland correspondent, who says he understands the government of Iceland intends to introduce a bill allowing the importation and consumption of wine below the stipulated alcoholic content. Prohibitionists have already started a political campaign in Iceland against such a policy.

It is reported that the Helsingfors government intends shortly to introduce a bill which will greatly curtail the powers of the present Finnish prohibition act. The Norwegian government, however, is taking an exactly opposite attitude in expediting their prohibition bill and the government monopoly bill, independent of commercial treaty negotiations now going on with France, Spain and Portugal. Spain has already closed her frontiers against Norwegian goods and Portugal will take a similar step, beginning this month.

For a year. She usually spends a month in training. There are local, toll and chief operators and supervisors, working by shifts.

The operators blame the moving pictures for being responsible for the erroneous impression the public has of the work of an operator by showing the operator of a sub-exchange who operates her board at her leisure—or pleasure—in telephone scenes. There is a vast amount of difference in the regular telephone exchange and in a sub-exchange.

THUNDER INVENTED
THE ICE CREAM SODA

Was Result of Summer Shower of Forty-One Years Ago.

DETROIT, Mich., Aug. 6.—A summer thunder shower 41 years ago resulted in the "invention" of the ice cream soda, according to Fred Sanders, Jr., of Detroit, whose grandfather, Fred Sanders, claimed the distinction of having discovered this American institution.

Speaking of his grandfather's discovery, Mr. Sanders said: "Forty years ago the American people regarded ice cream much as the lily that could not be painted. At that time they 'took it straight.' Syrups were in general use in drink concoctions but the ice cream sundae and its many near relatives were unknown. Carbonated water was used by the soda dispensers in a popular drink known as sweet cream soda. Its chief ingredient was sweet cream, direct from the farm.

"The thundershower that brought about my grandfather's discovery came in the summer of 1880. He was conducting a soft drink parlor and the storm caused the sweet cream he had intended for sodas to sour. Just after the storm passed a wedding party dropped in and my grandfather volunteered to experiment until he found a substitute drink. He tried several drinks and finally concocted one almost identical with the ice cream soda of today.

"Members of the party liked the new drink so well that it became popular within a short time, and soon all dealers were making the sodas."

SPIRIT OF UNREST
AMONG YOUNG GIRLS

A Numbre From Eastern States Are Tramping Across the Continent.

NEW YORK, Aug. 6.—The roaming complex, sometimes called the wanderlust, has become epidemic among eastern girls of debutante years. Not a few of them are tramping across the continent this summer, gathering an occasional "lift" from kindly automobile tourists and walking the rest of the way. So-called sensible shoes, khaki trousers and the will to work

when the purse becomes emaciated characterize most of them.

Some of these eastern girls declare they find the west safer for young women than New York City. Rebecca Brownstein and Myra Levine, former students of Syracuse university, who recently hiked from the Pacific to their homes here, praised western men so highly that many mothers began praying that their dear daughters would not get any of "those crazy ideas of walking across country into their heads."

Florence Rosen and Gladys Zimmerman, of New York, reached Los Angeles a few days ago after a long tramp across the continent, broken by jobs of stretching octaves on typewriters whenever funds ran low. They liked the open air life so well that they immediately began saving up for a return jaunt.

FEW TELEGRAMS
OUT OF RUSSIA

Although Country Has Open Communication With Outside World, Number Is Limited.

RIGA, Latvia, Aug. 6.—Although Russia has been in open telegraph communication with the outside world for some months since the Russian-English and various other trade agreements were signed, few telegrams ever come out of Russia in response to the thousands that are sent in, say officials of the telegraph administration in Riga and Reval. Most of the telegrams are routed through these two cities, which are in direct wire communication with Moscow and Petrograd.

"We have a good deal of money on hand unused in connection with 'answer prepaid' cablegrams from America and elsewhere to Moscow and other Russian points," said an official of the Riga telegraph department. "Telegrams by the hundreds have been sent in to Russia with answer prepaid, but very few of the answers have come."

Only certain persons are allowed to telegraph in Russia, it is understood here, and to gain the privilege of replying takes much time, during which the person is subjected to a complete investigation as to the reason he could possibly want to telegraph.